

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 145

Washington, D. C.

January 9, 1926

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Room Reservations for Convention

Members of the Association expecting to attend the Convention are reminded that all hotel room reservations are made to begin Monday morning. If members plan to come to Louisville before that time they should write direct to the hotels at which they have reservations, so that the rooms can be ready for them upon arrival.

In case any who have reservations wish to cancel them, please telegraph this office and not the hotels, as by that time we will have a waiting list and every room can be used.

Distribution Problems to be Discussed at Convention

Merchandising and problems of distribution will occupy a prominent place on the program of the Annual Convention at Louisville.

"Each previous convention," it is announced in the program, "has had before it some topic of outstanding interest and importance. Quality and improved methods of production have been the themes of many conventions and will not be overlooked at this convention, but the industry's leaders feel that the time has come when more study should be given to distribution—a subject equally as important as quality and production methods."

At the opening session on Monday, January 25, James Moore, of Rochester, former President of the Association, will speak upon "The Canner's Interest in Distribution." At the general session Monday evening, Miss Ruth Wardall, Head of the Home Economics Department of the University of Illinois,

will talk upon "The Mutual Interest of the Housewife and Canner," and James P. Olney will tell about "Early Incidents of the National Canners Association and Some Observations Since." Other speakers at the opening sessions of the Convention include Judge J. Harry Covington, of Washington, D. C., Counsel for the Association, and the presidents of the allied trade associations.

The section programs include topics of timely interest to the canners of the various products they represent. At each section meeting the subject of increasing canned food consumption and various phases of the distribution problem will be discussed by one or more speakers. Another topic to be presented at each section meeting is the simplification of containers. The Tomato, Baked Bean, Wax and Green Bean, and Beet Sections meet on Tuesday morning. The Pea and Pumpkin Sections meet on Wednesday morning, while the meetings of the Fruit, Corn, and Kraut Sections will be held Thursday morning.

The entertainment program will include a luncheon and musicale on Tuesday for ladies attending the Convention, a subscription dinner dance Wednesday evening, a visit to the Brainerd Lemon Silver Collection, Tudor House, for the ladies on Thursday afternoon, a theater party Thursday evening tendered by the American Can Company, and the President's Ball on Friday evening. The Brokers Association will be hosts at the annual Brokers Dinner on Tuesday evening, and the Anchor Cap and Closure Corporation will give a dinner Wednesday evening.

Government Seeks to Standardize Trade Rules in Produce Business

Establishment of standard trading rules in the fruit and vegetable industry, and the creation of an arbitration board to handle trade disputes are proposed in a plan announced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The plan provides for cooperative agreements between the department and individual members of the fruit and vegetable trade to adhere to the proposed rules and regulations. Pending final promulgation of the rules, the Department offers to act as arbitrator of a limited number of controversies, in order to investigate the character and variety of the causes of these disputes.

Copies of the department's printed announcement, Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 97, may be obtained upon

request to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Classification of "Salsa di Pomodoro"

In Information Letter No. 143 reference was made to the tariff classification of tomato paste. The official abstract of this case reports that the merchandise was invoiced as "Salsa di Pomodoro." From the sample it was found to be a thick, red substance in paste form, and according to a witness in the case, the commodity is not used as a sauce. The protest of the importer, which sought its classification as a sauce, was therefore overruled.

The Other Side of the Story

Canners have reason to know that incorrect reports about their products get into the press, and a recent incident in a southern city shows that food inspectors, too, have difficulty in getting their actions correctly reported. A daily paper in the city referred to published a sensational story under a five-column head, stating that the state food inspector had condemned 1,000 cases of canned foods in a local distributor's house and quoting the inspector to the effect that the foods condemned "would have killed users," etc.

A letter to the inspector brought a reply stating that he was grossly misquoted. Instead of 1,000 cases, only 1,000 cans were involved. Speaking for the state food department, he said:

"It is not the policy of the Department to make public through the press or otherwise its findings in matters of this sort. It was done in this particular instance because the proprietor of the firm invited it. * * * I told him if he would agree to destroy the goods in question there would be no litigation instituted and that no publicity would be given the matter. He agreed to destroy the goods, but failed, neglected and refused to do so at the appointed hour. I, therefore, attached the goods and placed them in the custody of the Sheriff, subject to the order of court when the case is set for trial or finally disposed of."

In concluding his reply, the inspector stated:

"I assure you that it is not my intention to do an injustice to the Canners Association, or to any of its connections, but it is my full duty to protect the consumers of our state as well as the honest and legitimate manufacturer and dealer, and I believe

that my actions in the matter were in the interests of the Canners Association, in that these unwholesome goods were removed from the shelves of this dealer where they were being exhibited and exposed for sale."

Refuses to Reopen New York Milk Rate Case

The Interstate Commerce Commission has denied the petition of the New York Department of Farms and Markets for reopening the proceedings and for modification of the Commission's order respecting rates on milk, etc., including condensed milk, between points in the State of New York.

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